

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 952

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of the City of Nashville and the dedication of the new Public Square.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to join with the cities and counties that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2006, the citizens of Nashville, our state capital city, will commemorate their bicentennial, having officially elected a city government for the first time 200 years earlier; and

WHEREAS, twenty-seven years after James Robertson crossed the frozen Cumberland River, twenty-three years after the North Carolina legislature established Davidson County and the first courthouse was built out of logs, and ten years after Tennessee became a state, Nashville became a city with its own government; and

WHEREAS, led by its first mayor, Joseph Coleman, and six aldermen as the first city officeholders, Nashville was incorporated by an act adopted September 11, 1806, by the Tennessee General Assembly that stated "it is found by experience that the good order, health, peace and safety of growing towns cannot be preserved, nor the evils and accidents to which they are subject, avoided or remedied, without an internal power competent to establish a police and regulation fitted to their particular circumstances, wants and exigencies;" and

WHEREAS, the act also made it clear to the world that "the town of Nashville, in the county of Davidson, and the inhabitants thereof, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of Mayor and Aldermen of the town of Nashville, and shall have perpetual succession;" and

WHEREAS, that same act granted the City of Nashville the full power and authority to carry out such civic functions as the establishment of night watches and patrols, paving and repair of streets, licensing, regulating and restraining for theatrical or other public amusements, setting up pumps on the public square to convey water into the town, and the establishment of fire wards and fire companies; and

WHEREAS, today the City of Nashville, established nearly two hundred years ago, provides all these services and performs each of these duties and more, employing over fifty-seven hundred people and operating on an annual budget of more than one billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2006, Nashville will mark the two-hundredth anniversary of its incorporation with the dedication of the new Public Square as an official commemoration for every citizen to celebrate Nashville's wonderful heritage, from the city's beginnings by the Cumberland River to the neighborhoods and institutions that define Nashville today; and

WHEREAS, the City of Nashville is one of the great communities in Tennessee, and it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor the city and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the citizens of Nashville as they commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of their city's incorporation and mark that special milestone with the dedication of their new Public Square.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.